

Russia's War of Attrition Is Hard on America's Purse

Politburo Holds Back Its Armies in Hopes That Our Economic Structure Will Collapse

By Constantine Brown

The Federal budget for the current fiscal year will reach the formidable sum of \$69 billion.

The Defense Department estimates that, even if a war does not break out in Europe in the next nine months and the present combination "cold-hot war" which Russia has devised continues, the necessity of maintaining an alert defense will require some \$90 billion in the 1951-2 fiscal year.

Thus the war of attrition which Russia has threatened against us since 1946 appears to be in full swing.

All the Russian leaders, from Stalin down, at one time or another have stated that only the collapse of the American economic structure will enable the U. S. S. R. to achieve its plans for world domination.

The Politburo believes now that this economic collapse cannot be very far off. It is this belief alone which prevents Russia from unleashing now a shooting war in which her military power would be engaged. The Russian pattern of weakening the United States by attrition is obvious. It applies political pressure in Western Europe—in what is commonly known as the cold war—which forces us to pour out tens of billions of dollars in cash and raw and manufactured materials to Western European nations. At the same time it uses military aggression by one of its satellites in a shooting war in the Far East.

The North Korean aggression is about to end in disaster for the aggressors. Tens of thousands of Russia's puppets have been killed and the country devastated. The U. S. S. R. has lost nothing. But we have suffered heavily in American casualties and billions of dollars already have been spent, or are about to be spent, on the reconstruction of that country.

The second "push-button war" now is on the way in Indo-China. The French are not capable of defending themselves and are calling steadily for greater American help. So far we are engaged only in providing them with military equipment amounting to some \$200 million—a mere trifle compared to the billions which must be spent this year and next on our Western European Allies.

There is no saying, however, what will happen if the French government presents the Indo-China case to the United Nations and shows that the campaign is inspired and abetted by the Chinese Communists, behind whom stands Moscow.

Although the Government in Washington is opposed, at this time, to sending American troops to Indo-China, its present stand will be reversed by a decision of the U. N. to give us another mandate to re-establish law and order in Indo-China.

The Russian plan of attrition against America is well on its way. Since the end of World War II we have spent unbelievable amounts of wealth to bring the world back to "normalcy." Immediately after the war we spent some \$4 billion in all kinds of recovery projects, including UNRRA.

Then we proceeded to a large-scale plan by adopting Gen. Marshall's recovery program.

Although the Government was engaged, between 1942 and 1947, in political appeasement of Russia, the State Department had decided, even before V-E day, to use economic assistance to prevent Communist ideology from making inroads in Europe and Asia. We proceeded on the theory that communism thrives on hunger, which in turn causes unrest and revolutions.

American legislators were persuaded to appropriate billions of dollars to alleviate, through an international organization known as UNRRA, the inevitable economic difficulties of the world outside of the American hemisphere.

Objectors Denounced

It is true that, on paper, the other members of the coalition which defeated the Axis were supposed to participate in this good Samaritan work. Actually, the United States provided more than 90 per cent of the billions spent on relief for the hungry world.

This was followed within the next 20 months by the Marshall Plan, which was to prevent the penetration of the Communist virus into Western Europe. In three years the American taxpayers provided some \$15 billion for that purpose, in addition to a "loan"—which will never be repaid—of \$3,750,000,000 to the British Labor government to enable it to put into effect its industrial nationalization policies.

We were going through an era of apparent prosperity, and the dance of the billions did not appear too important to the rank and file of American people.

A few far-sighted lawmakers saw a real danger in these extravagant handouts. Their objections were drowned out, without trouble. The powerful Government propaganda machine, which has been developed since 1939, denounced them as isolationists and thus endangered their political existence.

They were denounced as favoring the Communist conquest of Europe by default. High-ranking administration officials, newsmen and radio commentators produced "tangible proofs" that France and Italy, the pivots of Western resistance to Russia's drive, would become Communist satellites unless American billions made their peoples happy and prosperous once more.

But no sooner had Western Europe begun to recover its pre-war prosperity than we realized that a militarily powerful Russia was threatening the West physically. The Marshall Plan had to be implemented by the Atlantic pact, a military alliance between a select number of European nations which, from the military viewpoint, were even weaker than during World War II.

For the first time in our history we entered into a military alliance with a continent where wars were

Europe's Tiny Countries Have Troubles—But No Wars

Here's How They Fare While Rest of World Worries Over A-Bomb

Newspapers today are filled with the trials and tribulations of the great nations of the world.

But what of the little fellows, the real little ones, that is? How are they faring in these days of hot and cold wars?

There are four tiny countries in Europe—Andorra, San Marino, Liechtenstein and Monaco. The Associated Press asked its European correspondents to find out what is going on in them.

The four have a total land area of only 348 square miles, less than New York City's 365 square miles and far less than the 452 square miles of Los Angeles.

Their total population is 54,000, barely more than the number of persons who live in New York City's largest housing development.

Following are front-line reports:

MONTE CARLO (AP).—This tiny, sun-drenched flower-bedded principality on the shores of the blue Mediterranean is on its uppers.

The war in Korea has kept away the rich Americans, and postwar hard times in Europe have thinned the stream of wealthy European gamblers to a mere trickle.

The days of dramatic suicides by beautiful, red-haired Hungarian girls and devil-may-care Englishmen attempting to "break the bank at Monte Carlo" are gone.

A simple statistic: Back in the carefree '30s, the Monaco government took in about 120,000,000 francs a year from the gaming table, its major source of revenue. These days the figure is down to 20,000,000 francs.

But Monaco still is an ideal place for getting away from it all—if you can afford it—for these reasons:

1. Wonderful warm climate.
2. The principality calls itself one of the cleanest areas on earth, due to a determined system of washing the streets three or four times a day.
3. No industry to speak of. There's a beer plant, and five dockers work in the port.
4. No Communist Party.
5. No overcrowding for the total population of 25,000.
6. A constant series of exclusive showings of films, periodic \$1,500 fireworks displays, glittering balls, symphony concerts, showings by the famed Monte Carlo ballet.
7. No labor strife. Except for a 10-day strike of Casino employees last April, there never has been a strike that lasted more than 24 hours.

Monaco officials deplore the absence of the 200 English who used to come for a three or four months' stay before the war, and religiously dress for dinner each night.

They also deplore the many Americans who have stayed away, despite the effort to attract them by introducing the game of craps in the Casino. Commissioner general of tourism, Gabriel Olivieri, has gone all-out to make the wealthy feel at home. All visitors of note find their hotel rooms crowded with free flowers, and have a secretary at their disposal.

The swank Hotel De Paris has 1,600 to 3,500 rooms, \$450 to \$100 and 140,000 bottles of wine, champagne and brandy in its cellars. A

San Marino's citizens are proud of their socialized health program which entitles all to free medical service, including hospitalization and, if necessary, accommodation in the republic's insane asylum. Funds come from the nationalized movie theaters, which also provide enough extra revenue to support an old-age pension plan.

Most of the 12,000 inhabitants are agricultural workers and the state's principal export—aside from stamps, which are popular with collectors—is its famed Moscatto wine. About 1,500 are employed in industry, which includes tanneries, potteries and soap, cement and

macaroni factories. Bread for the entire population is produced by a single state-owned bakery. Another of San Marino's products is divorcees, which are unobtainable in Italy.

A council of 60 governs the republic, with the executive authority being exercised by two "captains regent" chosen from among the councilors and changed every six months.

VADUZ, Liechtenstein (AP).—Liechtenstein is a tiny, 60-square-mile state sandwiched between Switzerland and Austria in the upper Rhine Valley.

The present ruler, Prince Franz-Josef II, married beautiful Vienna-born Countess Georgine Wilczek in 1943. The couple has three children, all boys, the eldest of whom is 5-year-old Prince Johann Adam Plus, heir to the principality.

Franz-Joseph II became ruling Prince of Liechtenstein in 1938. His role in the government is limited by a democratic constitution dating from 1921.

The 15-member Parliament is elected every four years and nominates five of its members as the country's "government."

Deputy Premier Ferdinand Nigg says proudly: "There is not a single Communist in Liechtenstein." In fact, only two political parties exist in the country, and both are conservative. Political differences are limited to strictly domestic matters.

Liechtenstein has been in a customs and monetary union with Switzerland since 1924 and is now virtually incorporated in the Swiss economy. Outstanding among the local industries is the production of artificial teeth, of which millions of pairs are exported annually. Most of the country's power is produced domestically in hydroelectric stations in the Alps along the Austrian frontier. Taxation is low and many foreign corporations maintain European head offices in the principality. "Registration fees" paid by these corporations and the sale of frequently issued new series of postage stamps form the country's principal revenue.

Liechtenstein has no army. Its last soldier died in 1939 at the age of 95 and Nigg explains:

"Our foreign policy, like that of Switzerland, is based on absolute neutrality."

ANDORRA (AP).—Five thousand feet high in the Pyrenees Mountains live 5,000 people, untouched and untroubled by the world's strife.

The inhabitants of this tiny principality have no Communist problem and pay no taxes. Although the nations of their co-princes, the President of France and the Spanish bishop of nearby Seo de Urgel, have fought wars, the Andorrans go on with their main trade and largest source of revenue: Smuggling goods back and forth between France and Spain.

Smuggling is bound to flourish in Andorra which nestles among mountain peaks more than 10,000 feet high.

This tiny country of 191 square miles was left over by Cardinal Richelieu's treaty of the Pyrenees in the early 17th century because neither country could agree on its future.

The inhabitants insist they have the only true democracy in the world. Local politics are handled by a 24-man council which is elected every four years by male heads of family. Any inhabitant has redress for grievances to the council and may convocate it into session at any time by paying about \$25 to cover the expenses of the meeting.

Chief executive officer is the "Syndic," who is elected by the council from among its members.

Main legitimate source of income is Radio Andorra, a French-owned concern which, by agreement between the French and Spanish, has only music programs and advertising. Through a Spanish-owned company, Andorra supplies electricity to Barcelona.

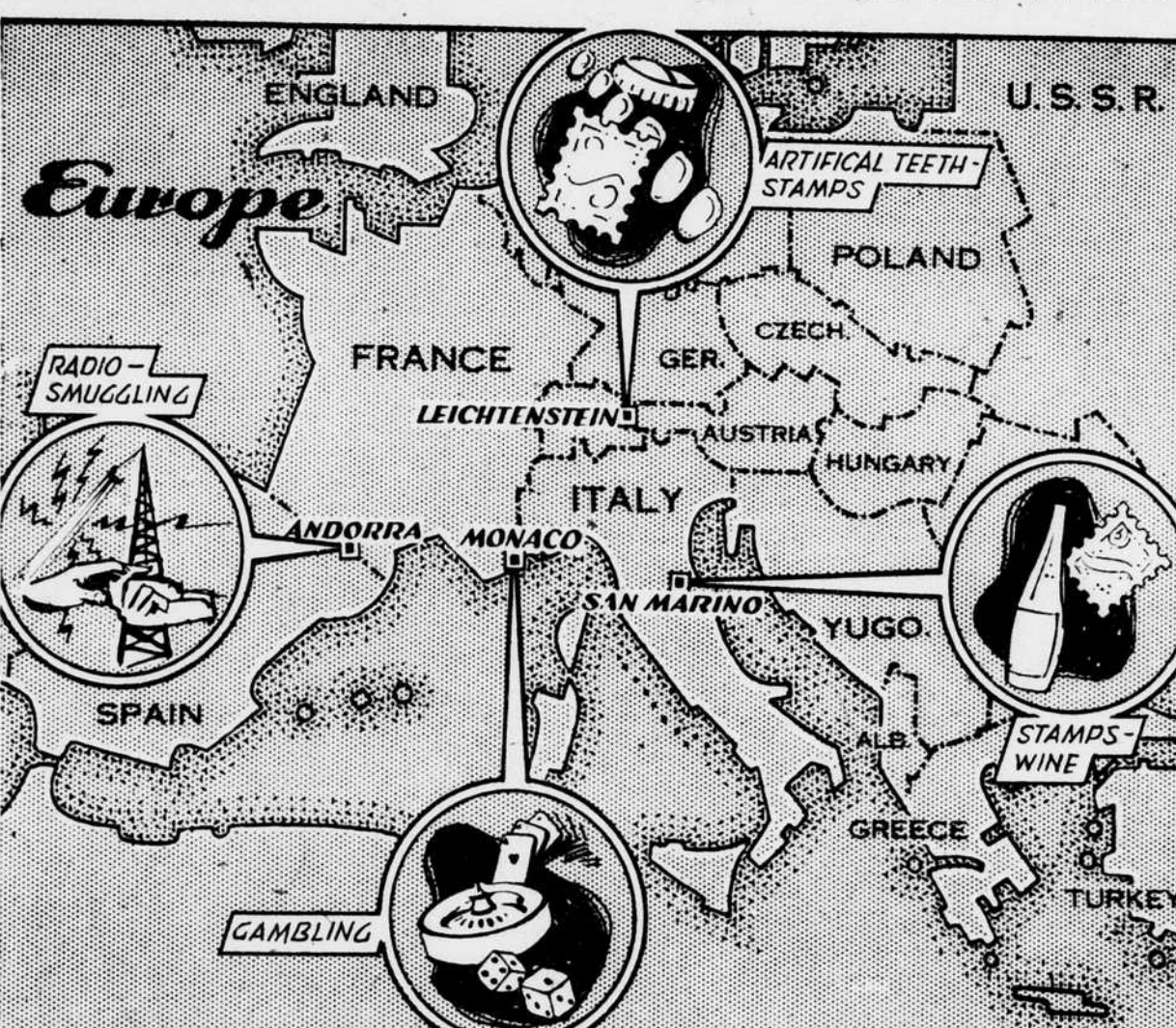
World War II had little or no effect on Andorra's cattle-raising peasant economy.

The gay Catalan inhabitants read of the world's turmoil in the few French and Spanish newspapers reaching them.

Their 800-year-old country has always been at peace.

Life goes on pretty much as it always has.

(Distributed by the Associated Press.)



client who comes back 10 years later will find his favorite dishes served him without even having to ask, due to a special system of card indexing kept by the hotel.

Monaco, ruled by young Prince Ranier, isn't really very independent from France, and her position in international affairs is the same. Actually, only 3,900 of the 25,000 inhabitants are Monaco citizens. Of these 1,000 are men, and all would do their duty for the West.

SAN MARINO (AP).—The 1,650-year-old mountain republic of San Marino is feuding with Italy, by which it is completely surrounded.

This tiny state, situated on a mountain slope 10 miles from the Adriatic Sea, has a Communist government which does not get along too well with Italy's Christian Democrat authorities. Its officials complain that Italy not only is five years in arrears in payment of the amounts due under a customs agreement, but also is sabotaging its tourist traffic.

The San Marinese are also somewhat displeased with the British who bombed them during the last war on suspicion that German troops were lurking in their citadel-like mountain.

The republic boasts it has no public debt but its leaders admit there have been hard times these last years. To bolster the public treasury, the government recently opened a fancy gambling casino.

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But today this unity is largely gone and the country is in a state of unrest.

The chief responsibility for this change lies with the head of the present government, Urho Kekkonen—a clever lawyer from the Agrarian Party, who thinks he can afford to secure Russian good will by concessions in internal Finnish affairs and still determine the limit of such concessions. Other people have thought that before, to their cost.

Finland's military dependence on Russia is, of course, complete. Under the peace treaty the Russians are (like the British) entitled to know everything that is done in the Finnish Army and to control its size and armaments. They have a base within gun-range of the capital; trains from Helsinki to Turku, the only Finnish harbor that stays ice-free all through the year, have to pass through that base and are so only by Russian leave, with steel shutters blocking out the train windows, and a toll of \$50 paid each time.

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Finns Irked by Government But Change Might Irk Reds

Have Been Able So Far to Refuse Soviet Any Power Over Their Internal Affairs

By Richard Lowenthal

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